

Labor Resources for Ridgeway, South Carolina

Executive Summary

This profile contains information about the labor force within a 30 minute and 45 minute commuting distance from the center of Ridgeway, South Carolina. Ridgeway is located in Fairfield County, South Carolina.

The profile examines three issues: labor force characteristics, the availability of labor, and the average wages and salaries in the community of Ridgeway.

Labor Situation at a Glance in Ridgeway, South Carolina

Labor Force Characteristics	within 30 min.	within 45 min.	South Carolina
Population, 2004	139,027	389,533	4,198,068
Labor Force, 2004	61,891	175,670	2,046,179
Availability of Labor	within 30 min.	within 45 min.	South Carolina
Unemployed Workers, 2004	4,392	12,195	139,607
Unemployment Rate, 2004	7.1%	6.3%	6.8%
Workers Affected by Layoffs (Past 2 Years)	71	341	22,196
Average Wages	Fairfield County	South Carolina	United States
2003 Avg. Weekly Wage	\$706	\$581	\$658

Labor Force Characteristics for Ridgeway, South Carolina

The composition and size of a community's labor force is linked very closely with demographic and economic conditions and trends in the region. The following labor force profile provides basic information on the population base and labor force characteristics so that the reader can better assess labor force conditions in the community.

Labor Force			
	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Labor Force 2004	61,891	175,670	2,046,179
Change since 2000	-6,361	-17,968	49,079
Population			
Population 2004	139,027	389,533	4,198,068
Change since 2000	662	14,998	186,056
Projected 2010	34,810	381,412	4,446,704
Gender Distribution			
Male	68,503	191,434	2,040,261
Female	70,524	198,099	2,132,454
Age Distribution			
Ages 20-34	33,157	89,017	875,330
Ages 35-49	30,834	84,445	925,330
Ages 50-64	22,588	65,161	739,980
20-54 *Prime Working Age	73,326	199,927	2,084,880
Highest Level of Educational Attainment			
High School	52,800	141,555	778,054
Some College	18,771	58,541	500,194
Associate Degree	7,960	24,064	173,428
Bachelors Degree	12,313	39,815	351,526
Post Bachelor	4,563	15,951	178,529

**Prime working age group:*
People between the ages of 18-54 are often referred to as the prime working age group. In staffing a new facility, prudent managers often prefer to staff its production work force with workers whose ages form a normal distribution curve. This provides for stability, flexibility and continuity of knowledge.

Source: 2004 Estimates Based on 2000 U.S. Census of Population and
Woods and Poole, 2003 Edition

Employment Characteristics for Ridgeway, South Carolina

Total Employment			
Year	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
2004	57,499	163,475	1,906,571

Total Employment data include all full and part-time wage and salaried workers in the area. These people may or may not reside in the area.

Monthly Employment by Sector In Fairfield County			
Sector	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	109	1,088	12,379
Mining	1	122	1,603
Utilities	8	774	11,891
Construction	465	8,809	111,730
Manufacturing	2,235	23,818	275,573
Wood product manufacturing	2	498	8,371
Nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing	113	982	9,155
Primary metal manufacturing		310	6,317
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	49	1,918	27,357
Machinery manufacturing	4	1,244	21,278
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	7	668	7,666
Electrical equipment and appliance mfg.	2	648	10,748
Transportation equipment manufacturing	58	1,902	30,932
Furniture and related product manufacturing	8	260	4,225
Miscellaneous manufacturing	2	478	7,846
Food manufacturing	15	1,548	17,832
Beverage and tobacco product manufacturing		71	1,445
Textile mills	132	2,581	40,207
Textile product mills	143	1,038	9,724
Apparel manufacturing		263	5,321
Paper manufacturing	3	840	14,710
Printing and related support activities	9	556	7,327
Petroleum and coal products manufacturing		14	288
Chemical manufacturing	178	1,703	21,659
Plastics and rubber products manufacturing	27	1,228	23,054
Wholesale Trade	436	5,270	62,523
Retail Trade	1,033	17,136	224,031
Transportation and Warehousing	108	3,715	46,941
Education and Health Services	1,613	25,291	156,232
Leisure and Hospitality	434	13,161	192,748
Professional and Business Services	307	11,982	186,481

Source: 2003 Covered Wages, SC Employment Securities Commission

Largest Industries by Total Employment In <i>Fairfield County</i>				
Company Name	City	Primary Product/Service	Employment	Date Est.
Salant Distribution Center	Winnsboro	Men's dress shirts	184	1962
Michelin North America Inc	Winnsboro	Tire cord	178	1917
Isola Laminate Systems	Ridgeway	Laminate printed circuit boards	138	1995
Hook Up Inc	Winnsboro	Truck moving	80	
Saint Gobain Technical Fabrics	Ridgeway	Woven fiberglass fabric	49	1996
Winnsboro Plywood Co	Winnsboro	Hardwood plywood	30	1951
Phillips Granite Co	Winnsboro	Granite monuments	13	1933
Vulcan Materials	Blair	Crushed granite	13	1953

Employer-Employee Relationship

Employer-employee relations in South Carolina are very stable and the state consistently ranks as one of the least unionized in the nation. In 2004, only 4.5 percent of the state's workers were members of a labor union. Additionally, the state has consistently had one of the lowest work stoppage rates in the United States. On average, less than .01 percent of working time was lost due to strikes in manufacturing and non-manufacturing industries combined.

Availability of Labor

Labor Force Participation & Unemployment

Labor Force Participation & Unemployment			
Year	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Labor Force (2004)	61,891	175,670	2,046,179
Labor Force Change from 2000	-6,361	-17,968	49,079
Labor Force Participation Rate	45%	45%	49%
Unemployment (2004)	4,392	12,195	139,607
Unemployment Rate	7.1%	6.3%	6.8%

The *labor force participation* rate is the percentage which results from dividing the labor force count by the total population.

Unemployment reflects the total number of persons who do not have a job and are actively seeking employment.

Other Potential Sources of Labor Supply

Total Jobs Lost Due to Mass Closings and Layoffs Past Two Years			
Sector	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Total	71	341	22,196
Manufacturing	46	275	19,196
Distribution	25	65	1,213
Service	-	-	1,745
Other	-	-	42

Recent closings and layoffs are a rich source of skilled and experienced labor for companies seeking to locate or expand in a given area. Industries in which layoffs and closings occur can provide some indication of the skills and knowledge-base of many unemployed and underemployed workers in a region.

Commuters to Other Areas			
	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Commuters to other areas	14,440	49,436	31,833

Source: 2000 U.S. Census of Population

Workers commuting to places outside their residence are a significant source of experienced labor for new and expanding industries. These workers may be willing to consider an opportunity for employment nearer their place of residence.

Recent Graduates of South Carolina's Colleges and Universities

Certificates/Degrees Conferred From Technical Colleges in Select Degrees Within 45 Minute Drive Time of Fairfield County, SC	
Degree Area	Two Year Certificates Conferred 2002 - 2004
Computer and Information Sciences (Total)	289
Data Processing Technology	104
Engineering Technologies (Total)	117
Electrical ,Electronic & Communications	58
Mechanical Engineering/Tech	*
Mechanic & Repair Technologies (Total)	298
Industrial Electronics	20
HVAC	50
Precision Production (Total)	94
Machine Tool Technology/Machinist	73

Graduation From South Carolina's Four Year Colleges and Universities In Select Degrees		
	Degrees Conferred (2002-2004)	
	Bachelors	Post- Grad
Computer and Information Science (Total)	910	108
Computer Engineering	150	149
Computer Programming	12	5
Engineering & Related Technologies (Total)	1,316	786
Chemical Engineering	136	38
Electrical Engineering	257	150
Industrial Engineering	78	44
Mechanical Engineering	268	95
Business Admin & Management	4,754	1,018
International Business/Trade	178	276

Source: South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

Wages and Salaries

Average Wage and Salary Comparison			
Sector	Fairfield County	South Carolina	United States
Avg. Weekly Wages*	\$706	\$581	\$658
Avg. Annual Salary*	\$36,713	\$30,240	\$37,508
Avg. Hourly Prod. Wages**	N/A	\$14.73	\$16.14

*Covered Wages and Employment, 2003, SC Employment Securities Commission

** Employment & Earnings, 2004, U.S. Department of Labor

Average Annual Salary Manufacturing Sectors, 2004		
Sector	Fairfield County	South Carolina
Manufacturing Total	\$42,116	\$39,027
Wood product	***	\$30,808
Nonmetallic mineral product	***	\$39,031
Primary metal	***	\$49,695
Fabricated metal product	***	\$37,533
Machinery	***	\$39,952
Computer and electronic product	***	\$40,186
Electrical equipment and appliance	***	\$40,178
Transportation equipment	***	\$44,099
Furniture and related product	***	\$27,907
Miscellaneous	***	\$34,350
Food	***	\$26,620
Beverage and tobacco product	***	\$35,765
Textile mills	***	\$31,898
Textile product mills	***	\$25,618
Apparel	***	\$23,705
Paper	***	\$55,139
Printing and related support activities	***	\$36,634
Petroleum and coal products	***	\$49,113
Chemical	***	\$50,870
Plastics and rubber products	***	\$46,620

***Indicates data suppressed

Source: Covered Wages and Employment, SC Employment Securities Commission

Occupational Wages In Ridgeway and Surrounding Area

Average Hourly Wages of Employees by Selected Non-Exempt Occupations For Fairfield County Area*			
Non-Exempt Occupations	Entry	Average	Experienced
Assemblers and Fabricators	\$9.01	\$12.25	\$15.34
Butchers and Meat Cutters	\$8.86	\$10.85	\$13.19
Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters	\$9.23	\$12.52	\$15.19
Chemical Equipment Operators	*	*	*
Chemical Plant & System Operators	*	*	*
Electrical & Electronic Equip Tenders	\$11.23	\$12.23	\$13.59
Extruding & Forming Machine Setters	*	*	*
Grinding & Lapping Machine Operators	\$10.39	\$11.92	\$13.19
Logging Equipment Operators	\$8.56	\$10.24	\$10.65
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$10.91	\$15.55	\$19.27
Machine Tool Setters & Tenders	*	*	*
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	*	*	*
Machinists	\$9.01	\$12.80	\$15.97
Packaging & Filling Machine Op	\$9.77	\$11.02	\$12.62
Molding & Casting Machine Op	\$11.71	\$12.43	\$13.22
Sewing Machine Operators	\$6.82	\$8.60	\$10.52
Textile, Cutting Machine Operators	\$9.25	\$9.82	\$10.59
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	\$12.04	\$16.23	\$19.76
Welders, Cutters & Solderers	\$9.76	\$12.18	\$13.99
Woodworking Machine Setters	\$8.97	\$10.53	\$12.34
Average Salary of Employees by Selected Exempt Occupations For Fairfield County Area*			
Exempt Occupations	Entry	Average	Experienced
Chemical Engineers	*	*	*
Computer Programmers	\$34,340	\$49,480	\$63,860
Engineers, NEC	\$30,600	\$46,040	\$57,640
First Line Production Man & Sup	\$32,120	\$42,380	\$51,840
Industrial Engineers	\$37,180	\$47,060	\$56,080
Mechanical Engineers	\$46,200	\$57,280	\$68,040

Source: *Occupational Wage Survey*, SC Employment Security Commission

* Indicates Suppressed Data or Data Not Available